

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner discussed this application with the applicant's signed representative, and further that the Examiner indicated the allowability of this application with Examiner's amendments as discussed.

Applicant now requests the attached new claims 3-10 be added to this application and notes that each of the new claims depends directly or indirectly from the prior independent claims that the Examiner indicated are allowable. More specifically, these new claims add further limitations, defining the valve actuation and defining a safety lock that secures the actuating valves in a closed or deactuated state. Further, no new matter is added by the above amendments, which are supported by the original disclosure as filed.

The drawings have been amended to make minor typographical corrections in the drawing numbers. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered. If any additional changes or corrections to the application are required, a telephone interview with the Examiner to expedite these matters is respectfully requested.

Claim listing:

1. (Original) A non-electrically actuated ganged fire extinguisher system for use in a enclosure requiring the fire extinguisher capacity of at least two pre-engineered fire extinguishers, the system comprising:

at least two pre-engineered fire extinguishers positioned at spaced locations in the enclosure, each fire extinguisher comprising a tank filled with pressurized fire extinguishing agent and an outlet for discharging the agent;

an actuation valve mounted on the outlet of each fire extinguisher, the actuation valve having a movable valve member that opens the valve when in an actuated state and closes the valve when in a deactuated state;

a fluid operated valve actuator for each valve, the valve actuator being drivingly connected to the valve and being operated by fluid pressure, the valve actuator retaining the valve in a closed state when the actuator is pressurized and opening the valve when the actuator is depressurized;

a vent line connecting the valve actuators and providing fluid communication therebetween, such that the actuators are maintained at the same pressure state; and

at least one non-electrical temperature sensor mounted in fluid communication with the vent line, the temperature sensor being responsive to temperature so as to become actuated and open an outlet to the vent line and release the pressure therein when the temperature in the vicinity of the sensor reaches a predetermined value indicative of a fire hazard, the release of pressure in the vent line in

turn causing substantially simultaneous actuation of all fire extinguishers connected to the vent line.

2. (Original) A non-electrically actuated, ganged fire extinguisher system comprising a plurality of pre-engineered fire extinguishers operably interconnected by a pressurizable vent line, one or more non-electrical thermal sensors being connected in fluid communication with the vent line, the vent line being pressurized when in a deactuated state and outlet valves in the fire extinguisher being maintained in a closed condition when the vent line is pressurized, the sensors releasing the pressure in the vent line when the sensors are actuated by an excessive temperature condition, the release of pressure in the vent line causing the outlet valves to become actuated, releasing pressurized fire extinguishing agent.

3. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 2 further including a valve lock that secures the valve in the closed condition.

4. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 3 wherein the outlet valves further include a poppet and an extinguisher outlet, the poppet and the extinguisher outlet cooperating in the closed condition to contain the pressurized fire extinguishing agent, and wherein the vent line is operatively connected with the poppet whereby the poppet is biased toward the closed condition when the vent line is pressurized.

5. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 2 wherein the outlet valves further include a poppet and an extinguisher outlet, the poppet and the extinguisher outlet cooperating in the closed condition to contain the pressurized fire extinguishing agent, and wherein the vent line is operatively connected with the poppet

whereby the poppet is biased toward the closed condition when the vent line is pressurized.

6. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 2 wherein the outlet valves further include a poppet and an extinguisher outlet, the poppet and the extinguisher outlet cooperating in the closed condition to contain the pressurized fire extinguishing agent, wherein the poppet is connected with a shaft, the shaft having a length and being slidable along the length to a valve open position from the valve closed condition, and wherein the system further includes a valve lock that engages the shaft in the closed condition.

7. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 2 wherein the outlet valves further include a poppet and an extinguisher outlet, the poppet and the extinguisher outlet cooperating in the closed condition to contain the pressurized fire extinguishing agent, wherein the poppet is connected with a shaft, the shaft having a length and being slidable along the length valve open position from the valve closed condition, the shaft also having a screw threaded end, and wherein the system further includes a cooperating screw threaded nut that engages the shaft and secures the valve in the closed condition.

8. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 1 further including a valve lock that secures the actuation valve in the deactuated state.

9. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 1 wherein the movable valve member is connected with a shaft, the shaft having a length and being slidable along the length to the actuated state from the deactuated state, and wherein the system further includes a valve lock that engages the shaft in the deactuated state.

10. (New) The fire extinguisher system defined in claim 1 wherein the movable valve member is connected with a shaft, the shaft having a length and being slidable along the length to the actuated state from the deactuated state, the shaft also having a screw threaded end, and wherein the system further includes a cooperating screw threaded nut that engages the shaft and secures the valve in the deactuated state.

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please amend the drawings by adding to FIG. 1 numerals 32 and 36 and accompanying lead lines and a lead line for numeral 18, and as shown in red in the attached photocopy of the drawing. No new matter has been added. A substitute drawing is enclosed for entry, in the event that the drawing corrections are approved.

MARKED DRAWING
FOR APPROVAL

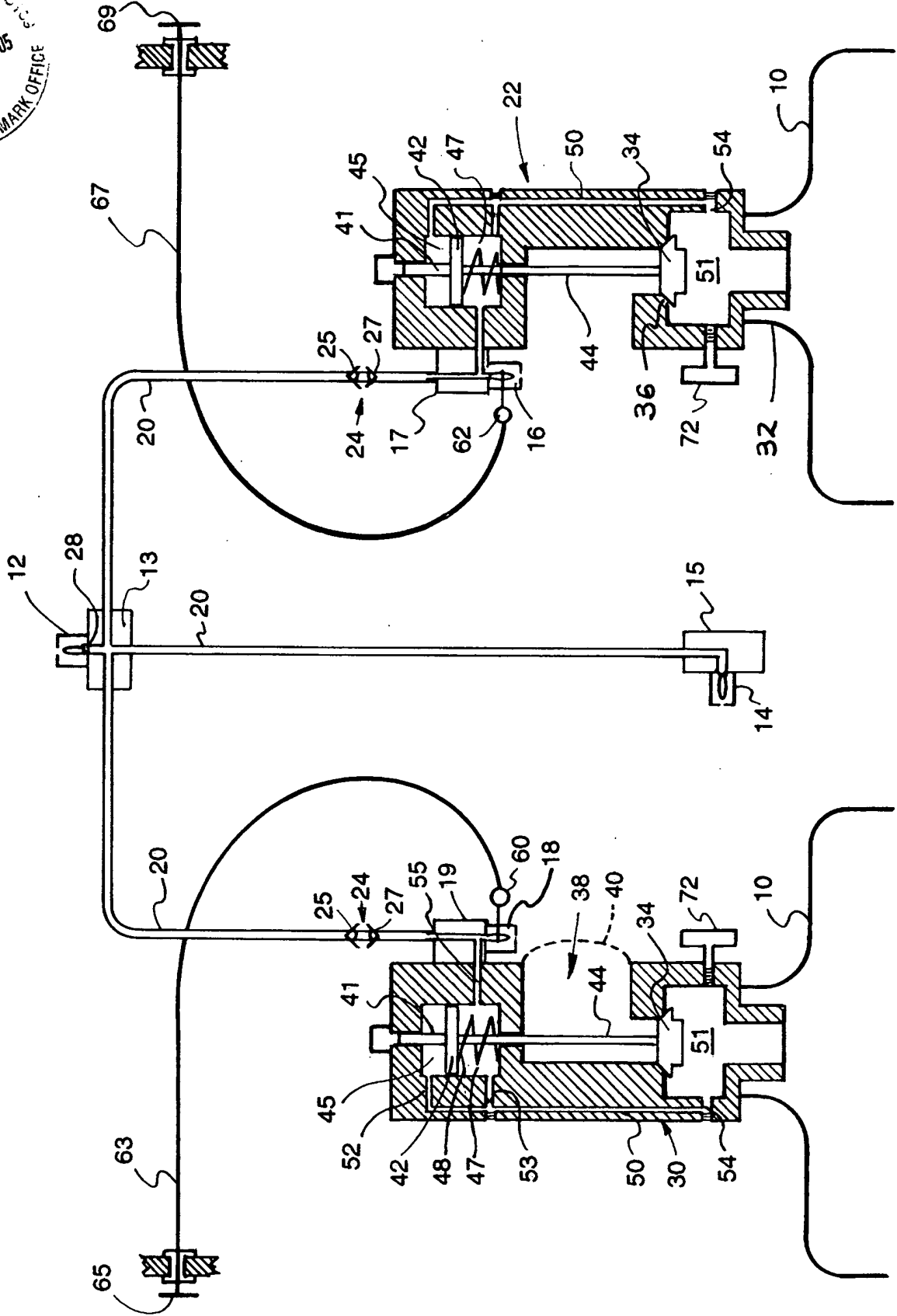


Fig. 1